Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-9   Canceled

10.   (Currently amended) A method using a computer system for automatically presenting values of variables from a selected type of device to a user interface in a human-understandable ~~form~~ language, the system including a data engine , ~~for interfacing with~~ a data dictionary containing information for translating the values of the variables in the native language of the device into the human-understandable language, and a data agent which is connected to the device, the method comprising the steps of:

~~obtaining~~ requesting by the data engine from the data dictionary, names of all variables associated with the selected type of device ~~and information about the language of the type of device~~;

obtaining[[,]]by the data agent~~, based on~~ from the selected type of device, values of the variables;

obtaining, by the data engine, from the data agent, the values obtained by the data agent;

obtaining from the data dictionary the translating information;

translating, by the data engine, the obtained values of the variables into the human-understandable ~~form~~ language using the translating information obtained from the data dictionary; and

presenting, by the data engine, to the user interface, the translated values in the human-understandable ~~form~~ language.

11.   (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of automatically communicating with a data central which is external to the system, for

obtaining the names of variables associated with the type of the device and the language of the type of the device when, after communicating with the data dictionary, the names of the variables, and/or the language of the type of the device or the protocol are not available from the data dictionary, in order to facilitate translation of the values into the human-understandable form language.

12. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the step of automatically storing, in the data dictionary, the names of the variables associated with the type of the device and the language of the type of the device obtained from the data central.

13. (Currently amended) A method, using a computer system, for establishing communication with a device, said device having a known network address but having a language and/or protocol for communication with the device that is unknown to the system, said computer system comprising a data engine and a plurality of data agents, each one of the plurality of data agents being associated with a specific language and protocol, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting one of the plurality of data agents based on the network address;

(b) communicating with a data dictionary to obtain names of variables associated with a union of the selected network address and the selected data agent; and

(c) obtaining values of the variables from the device at the selected network address required for determining a type of the device using the language and protocol of the selected data agent, wherein if the required values are obtained, a type of the device is determined from the values of the variables, and if the required values are not obtained, automatically repeating steps (a), (b) and (c) until the required values are obtained.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein if the names of the variables associated with the union of the network address and the selected data agent are not obtained from the data dictionary, communication is automatically established between the data

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dictionary and a data central for obtaining the names of the variables, the data dictionary being thereafter automatically updated with the names of the variables obtained from the data central.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of establishing communication between the data dictionary and the data central is via a hyper text markup language link.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, further including the step of communicating with the data dictionary to obtain the names of the variables associated with the type of the device.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, further including the step of establishing communication with the device to obtain values of the variables associated with the type of the device.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, further including the step of translating the names and the values of the variables into a language understandable by a human.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein if the names of the variables associated with the type of the device are not obtained from the data dictionary, communication is automatically established between the data dictionary and a data central for obtaining the names of the variables, the data dictionary being thereafter automatically updated with the names of the variables obtained from the data central.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of establishing communication between the data dictionary and the data central is accomplished via a hyper text ~~markup language link~~ transfer protocol.

21.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 13, further including the step of dynamically updating the data dictionary with the type of the device, the protocol and language for establishing communication with the type of the device and the names of the variables associated with the type of the device.

22.   (Currently amended) A computer system for communicating with a device connected to the system at a network address by the use of a data agent which communicates with the device using the specific protocol and/or language of the device, said system comprising:

        a data engine;

        a plurality of data agents operatively connected to the data engine, at least two of the data agents being adapted to utilize a different language and/or protocol for communicating with the device; and

        a data dictionary connected to the data engine, said data dictionary containing information for translating the values of variables in the native language of the device into human understandable language and, said data dictionary being adapted to automatically provide names of variables corresponding to both the network address and to the language and/or protocol of the device, wherein the data engine uses the names of the variables provided by said data dictionary to automatically obtain values of the variables from the device, and wherein the data engine automatically translates the values of the variables into human understandable language using the information for translating the values obtained from the data dictionary.

23.   (Previously presented)   The system of claim 22, further including a data central operatively connected to the data dictionary, wherein if the names of the variables are not obtained from the data dictionary, communication is automatically established between the data dictionary and the data central for obtaining the names of the variables, the data dictionary being thereafter automatically updated with the names of the variables obtained from the data central.

24.   (Currently amended)   The system of claim 23, wherein the step of establishing communication between the data dictionary and the data central is via a hyper text ~~markup language link~~ <u>transfer protocol</u>.

25.   (Previously presented)   The system of claim 23, wherein the data dictionary and/or the data central are adapted to provide the names of variables associated with a type of the device.

26.   (Previously presented)   The system of claim 23, wherein the data dictionary and/or the data central are adapted to provide the names of the variables based upon a selected variable key.